

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Siam/Indochina

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SUBJECT Vietnamese Military Organization
in Siam - Additional Information

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25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. The effective strength of Viet Minh armed units on Siamese soil may be placed at between 5,000 and 10,000 men.
25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. This figure is based upon the acceptance of 100,000 as the total Vietnamese population in Siam; observation of Viet Minh rigorous recruiting tactics; the departure of 300-400 trained troops for Indochina every three months; the number of troops (unknown) which come from Indochina into Siam to remain more or less permanently, for recuperation or to give instruction; and a general assessment of the total manpower available for military training among the Vietnamese in Siam.)
2. The number of arms purchased by the Viet Minh in Siam is considerable.
25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. The exact number is not known. Tran Van Dinh alone during one month in the summer of 1947 purchased 5,000 rifles. These were Japanese rifles which had to be reconditioned. Dinh bought them in several lots from a rich Chinese who owns a Saraburi-Bangkok busline, and delivered them to Tran Van Giau in Saraburi.
3. When the Siamese government ordered the disarming of the Viet Minh
25X1A [REDACTED], the latter turned in only a few hundred weapons which were old, useless for combat, and had been used only for training purposes.
4. The current rumor among Vietnamese, who have recently returned to Bangkok from the Udon region, is that the Viet Minh in Siam has 10,000 rifles in addition to an unstated number of submachine guns and other weapons.
5. Vu Huu Binh, Commander in Chief of the Viet Nam Army in Siam, sometimes uses the pseudonym of "Lieutenant Thai". He was born in Nghe-An in about 1913 and was at one time a warrant officer in the Gardes Indigenes.
25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. He has been converted to Communism recently [REDACTED] Binh as one of the original "Seventy Club" members.)
25X1X
6. The commander of the Udon military zone is named Hoan. He is about 32 years old, a Communist, and has lived in Siam for several years.

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7. The commander of the Ubon military zone is named Huy. He is about 26 years old, and is related to Vu Huu Binh. He is a Communist. The political commissar (Can Bo Viet Minh) of the Ubon zone is Nguyen Dinh Hin, who is about 30 years old and was, until recently, military commander of the Nakhon Phanom military zone. The name of the commander of the Aranya Pratet military zone is Luu. [REDACTED] Comment. As far as it is known, none of these military commanders is very important and none has had a foreign education.) 25X1A
8. The military training period provided for Viet Minh armed forces' recruits is of one month's duration.

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